

## Message Text

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJECT: LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE REVIEWS LAPO CONCERT IN PRAGUE

1. LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE (PEOPLES' DEMOCRACY) GAVE EXCELLENT  
REVIEW OF LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S DEC. 8  
PRAGUE CONCERT IN ITS DEC. 14 EDITION.

2. PLEASE CONVEY THE TEXT, WHICH FOLLOWS, TO ERNEST FLEISHMANN,  
LAPO MANAGER.

3. "LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA - DISTANCES ARE GETTING  
SHORTER IN THE WORLD TODAY: THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC HAD NO  
SOONER RETURNED FROM A TRIUMPHANT TOUR OF JAPAN THAN A  
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ARRIVED HERE FROM AS FAR AWAY AS  
LOS ANGELES, U.S.A. DISTANCES ARE GETTING SHORTER AND THE  
STANDARDS, CRITERIA OF VALUES HIGHER. WHAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH  
YESTERDAY DOES NOT MEASURE UP TODAY, THE PERFECTIONISM OF  
MODERN CIVILIZATION IS FORGING ON, AND WHO STANDS STILL  
FALLS BEHIND. THESE FACTS WERE POINTEDLY BROUGHT TO  
MIND BY THE BRILLIANCE OF THE LOS ANGELES ORCHESTRA,  
WHICH A STROKE OF LUCK BROUGHT TO PRAGUE WHILE ON A  
EUROPEAN TOUR. INDIAN CONDUCTOR ZUBIN MEHTA HAS SURELY  
NOT WASTED THE FOURTEEN YEARS HE HAS LED THE ORCHESTRA AND  
RAISED IT TO THE WORLD ELITE. IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME  
SINCE THE SMETANA HALL WAS TREATED TO SUCH A NEW, FRESH, AND  
MATURE SYMPHONIC QUALITY AS ON THIS OCCASION. THE PROGRAM  
AROUSED SOME DOUBTS ON PAPER, BUT STOOD THE TEST OF REALITY -  
THE AMERICAN MUSIC CARRIED THE DAY, THE DVORAK IN AMERICAN  
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INTERPRETATION WAS THRILLING. THE DEAN OF U.S. COMPOSERS,

76-YEAR-OLD AARON COPLAND, IS KNOWN TO US HERE IN PRAGUE, AND PRECISELY HIS THIRD SYMPHONY, AT LEAST AS RENDERED BY MEHTA, SEEMS TO US HIS WEIGHTIEST WORK; PERHAPS NOT FOR ITS EMOTIONAL SWEEP OR EXPLORATION BUT FOR ITS ABILITY TO DRAW A LARGE CIRCLE OF LISTENERS TO ACCESSIBLE NATIONAL MUSIC WHILE KEEPING UP THE STANDARD, NOT SELLING ITSELF SHORT. FROM THIS ALONE, ONE SAW MEHTA HAD NOT COME TO PRAGUE JUST TO PUT BEHIND HIM ANOTHER NIGHT'S GRIND, THAT HIS ENSEMBLE WAS PLAYING IN FINE DISPOSITION. DVORAK'S SYMPHONY IN D-MINOR (SEVENTH) BROUGHT BOTH POINTS HOME STILL MORE FORCEFULLY. THE 40-YEAR-OLD MEHTA IS A CONDUCTOR FILLED WITH MUSICAL IMPULSES, AND ENERGETIC ORCHESTRA LEADER WHOSE ELASTIC GESTURE (TECHNICALLY DOWNRIGHT VIRTUOSO) ELECTRIFIES THE PLAYERS TO A MAXIMUM INVOLVEMENT. HE CONDUCTS AS THOUGH EVERYTHING WAS STAKED ON EVERY BAR - AND MOST OF HIS IMPULSES MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE AUDIENCE. IN DVORAK HE SEEMED INTENT ON BRINGING OUT THE SPECIFIC, WHAT SET HIM APART FROM THE CLASSICALITY OF THE BRAHMS TYPE. NOT THAT EVERYTHING FITTED WELL WITHIN THIS INTERPRETATION, BUT NOTHING SUGGESTED THE RUN-OF-THE-MILL AND COMFORTABILITY. THE DRAMATIC IMPETUS AND LYRICISM (POETRY NEAR THE END OF THE SECOND MOVEMENT) OF THE WORK CAME ACROSS ADMIRABLY, THANKS ESPECIALLY TO THE PERFECT DISCIPLINE AND CULTURE OF THE AMERICAN BODY, WHICH BESIDES THE PERFECT STRINGS ASTOUNDED US PARTICULARLY WITH THE BEAUTIFULLY SOUNDING HARMONY OF THE WOODS. SUCH AN UNAMBIGUOUS SUCCESS NATURALLY REQUIRED ENCORES."

BYRNE

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